

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-7 and 11 are pending in the instant application. Claim 13 is cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of this claim in one or more continuing application. No new matter is added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated claims 1-7 and 11 contain allowable subject matter.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 AND §103

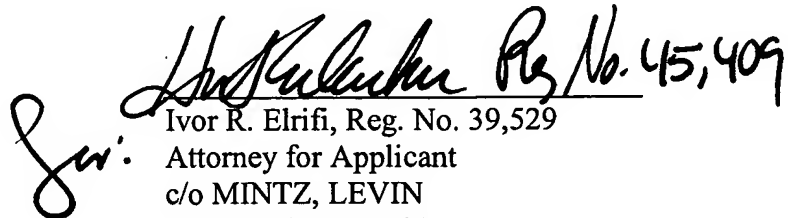
Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Toba *et al.* HCAPLUS Abstract ("Toba").

Applicants have cancelled claim 13. Therefore, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

 Reg. No. 45,409
Ivor R. Elrifi, Reg. No. 39,529
Attorney for Applicant
c/o MINTZ, LEVIN

Tel: (617) 542-6000

Fax: (617) 542-2241

Customer No.: 30623

Dated: June 19, 2006